



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.157/PC/42/Add.3
20 April 1993

Original: ENGLISH

WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Preparatory Committee
Fourth session
Geneva, 19-30 April 1993
Agenda item 6

REPORT ON OTHER MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Contribution from the International Women's Strategic Planning Meeting

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 46/116, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Preparatory Committee on progress made on meetings that had been organized under the auspices of the United Nations programme pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/155.
2. By letter dated 13 April 1993 the World Young Women's Christian Association, the International Women's Tribune Centre, Change and the Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women requested that the report and recommendations of the International Women's Strategic Planning Meeting, organized by the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University, United States, be included in the documentation of the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee.

INTEGRATING WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS INTO DELIBERATIONS OF
THE 1993 UN WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND
INTO THE ON-GOING WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS

This report and recommendations from the International Women's Strategic Planning Meeting, a satellite conference for the World Conference on Human Rights organized by the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University and attended by members of the organizations listed at the end, is submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status: International Women's Tribune Centre, Change, World Young Women's Christian Association, and Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women.

Following on the Petition now sponsored by over 800 organizations worldwide and signed by over 240,000 people in 120 countries calling on the World Conference to "comprehensively address women's human rights at every level of its proceedings" and to recognize "violence against women violates human rights" submitted by many of these same organizations to the Second Session of the Preparatory Committee (A/Conf.157/PC/24/Add.2 of 27 March, 1992),

Conscious that the World Conference on Human Rights provides a unique opportunity for states to consider how the United Nations can more effectively promote and protect women's human rights,

Appreciating resolution 1993/46 of the Commission on Human Rights of 8 March 1993 entitled "Integrating the rights of women into the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations," and resolution 1992/4 adopted by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on 14 August 1992 entitled "Discrimination against women" which calls for addressing women as a priority issue at the World Conference on Human Rights,

Affirming the recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women regarding "Women's Rights and Concerns to be Considered Under the Substantive Items of the Provisional Agenda for the World Conference on Human Rights" (E/CN.6/1993/L.5) approved at its Thirty-seventh Session in March 1993) and the resolutions regarding women's human rights adopted in the regional preparatory meetings in Tunis, San Jose, and Bangkok,

We urge governments to take the following measures in order to ensure that women's human rights are fully integrated into the deliberations of the World Conference and into the on-going work of the United Nations in the future:

I. ADVANCE MEASURES TO ENSURE THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS INTO THE 1993 WORLD CONFERENCE

1. *Ensure broad, regionally diverse NGO participation in the UN World Conference proceedings. Non-consultative-status NGO's (including women's rights NGOs) whose work is relevant to human rights should be permitted to attend as observers, make written and oral interventions and receive the documentation provided to the delegations before and during the Conference.*
2. *Encourage fair and effective participation of women and men in official government delegations and the inclusion in each delegation of persons with an in-depth understanding of a gender-perspective on human rights. Seek participation of women from culturally diverse backgrounds and who are familiar with the multiplicity of human rights abuses facing women worldwide.*
3. *Call on all governments to prepare a report on the state of human rights in their country and to include gender-specific information and analysis in background documentation prepared for the 1993 World Conference.*
4. *Urge the UN Human Rights Centre to incorporate and emphasize gender-specific information and analysis in all the background studies prepared for the World Conference.*
5. *Create formal procedures for communication between NGO delegations meetings and the official World Conference. Such procedures may include briefings by the Secretariat before and after consideration of major agenda items and the distribution of written statements by governments and by NGOs.*

II. INITIATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE WORLD CONFERENCE TO STRENGTHEN UN PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTING WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

In order to promote the equal realization of women's civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, we urge governments to adopt the following measures to strengthen procedures and mechanisms for implementing women's human rights:

1. *Appoint a UN Special Rapporteur on gender-discrimination and violence against women through the Human Rights Commission. The Rapporteur should be authorized to receive and report on information from governments, non-governmental organizations and inter-governmental institutions; to respond*

effectively to allegations of violations against women; and to recommend measures to prevent continuing violations. The Rapporteur should also report to the Commission on the Status of Women to assist their policy-making function.

2. *Strengthen the implementation procedures under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Women's Convention):*

- * Call upon governments who have not yet ratified the Women's Convention to do so before 1995.
- * Encourage governments to withdraw those reservations to the Women's Convention which are obstacles to its effective implementation.
- * Call for expeditious review of the compatibility of reservations with the Women's Convention and remove those reservations determined to be incompatible with the principles and spirit of the Convention.
- * Establish a working group in the Commission on the Status of Women to outline procedures for drafting an optional protocol establishing an individual complaints procedure under the Women's Convention, and support the adoption of such an optional protocol.
- * Expand the resources of CEDAW, which is charged with overseeing the governmental implementation of the Convention, to enable it to carry out its mandate by authorizing extended meeting sessions, more support staff, and other forms of financial and structural support.
- * Call upon states to effectively implement the Women's Convention through the elimination of discriminatory laws, policies, practices and customs and through the implementation of positive measures necessary to advance the equality of women.

3. *Ensure that all UN treaty committees, thematic and country rapporteurs and working groups, independent experts and all bodies entrusted with protecting human rights address violations of women's human rights, including gender-specific abuses, in the areas that fall within their mandate (through advisory services and training programs, reporting, monitoring and complaints procedures, etc.). Measures necessary to effectively carry out this charge include:*

- * Support training for all UN personnel and independent experts to ensure that they will address the full range of human rights abuses specific to women and carry out their work without gender-bias.

- * Enable the Program on Advisory Services in Human Rights to assist in the integration of a gender-perspective in all this work.

- * Ensure periodic evaluations of the effectiveness of the UN monitoring, reporting and complaints procedures, as well as its advisory services and training programs, in addressing and devising more effective responses to violations of women's human rights.

- * Call upon each body to prepare a report on the effectiveness of these initiatives for the 1995 World Conference on Women.

4. *Secure equal representation of women (including women from diverse backgrounds) on all UN treaty committees and among the special rapporteurs and working groups established by the UN Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and under the Program on Advisory Services in Human Rights.*

5. *Strengthen the implementation of human rights and the inter-relationship and indivisibility of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights by ensuring that gender-specific information drawn from a variety of women's experiences and gender analysis be included in consideration of all human rights, and of the means for advancing the equal realization of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights.*

6. *Ensure the effective contribution to the advancement of human rights of the specialized agencies of the UN (such as UNESCO and WHO), as well as other branches of the UN (such as UNDP), whose work bears upon the implementation of women's human rights:*

- * Consider measures to integrate gender-specific information and analysis in the work of specialized agencies, including training for relevant personnel and the participation of women affected in the development and evaluation of programs and initiatives.

- * Develop effective mechanisms for dialogue and information exchange between the specialized bodies and the international and regional human rights bodies.

- * Develop the mechanisms for oversight and periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of these procedures.

- * Prepare a report on the effectiveness of these initiatives for the 1995 World Conference on Women.

* Ensure the provision of adequate financial and human resources for these purposes.

7. *Develop procedures to expand access of NGO's with expertise in the field of the human rights of women to all UN structures and activities relating to human rights including the work of the specialized agencies and other bodies.*

8. *Recognize the accountability of UN delegates, personnel and other agents of the UN, for human rights violations, including gender-specific abuses, and develop procedures for implementing this accountability.*

9. *Call for the establishment of an international criminal court, to which individuals have direct access, to provide criminal sanctions and civil remedies against war crimes in both international and internal conflicts, crimes against humanity, and violations of human rights including gender specific abuses, based on international customary law and treaties. In the short-term, an ad hoc War Crimes Tribunal should be established to adjudicate the atrocities, including rape and forced pregnancy, being committed in the former Yugoslavia and in other parts of the world. Such a tribunal should have jurisdiction over crimes committed by United Nations personnel as well as by State officials and individuals.*

10. *Call upon the appropriate UN bodies to simplify the prerequisites for the exhaustion of national remedies so that the time, cost, and inconvenience of pursuing internal remedies no longer presents an obstacle to the effective enforcement of human rights.*

11. *Call upon regional human rights bodies to implement the foregoing recommendations in their respective contexts so as to further the enforcement of international human rights, including women's human rights.*

III. UNIVERSALIZING HUMAN RIGHTS BY INCLUDING WOMEN IN THE SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA OF THE 1993 WORLD CONFERENCE

1. *In reviewing progress made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda) and in considering challenges to the full realization of human rights of men and women (Item 11), governments should examine the issue of violence against women:*

* We urge the World Conference to recommend more effective UN implementation procedures to eliminate the violence against women that is endemic to all societies. Various forms of violence against women breach guarantees established in the Universal Declaration,

the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, and other human rights instruments, including: the rights not to be arbitrarily deprived of life, liberty and security of person; the right not to be subject to torture or inhuman and degrading treatment; the right to just and favorable conditions of work; the right to equal protection of the law; and the prohibition of gender discrimination.

- * The World Conference should recognize specifically that gender violence against women in both the private and public spheres is a violation of human rights and constitutes the gravest form of sexual discrimination. Governments have a responsibility to enforce or create new measures to prevent and respond to this gender specific violence in both these spheres, including affirmative measures to eliminate the conditions that breed this violence.

- * We welcome the steps taken recently by the UN to enhance international protection against gender-specific violence through the elaboration of the Draft Declaration on Violence Against Women, adopted by the 1992 inter-sessional meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women. We urge the adoption of this Declaration by the General Assembly as a first step toward more comprehensive and enforceable instruments.

2. In considering the full realization of women's human rights, attention must also be paid to the gender-specific needs of women with regard to human rights in areas such as reproductive rights. The rights to life, liberty and security of the person and to equality based on sex, as recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, require states to respect and ensure the sexual and reproductive integrity and health of women and girls:

- * Fundamental to these rights is protection of the principle of ***bodily Integrity***, contained in Article 11 of the 1975 International Women's Year Declaration: "[T]he human body, whether that of women or men, is inviolable, and the respect for it is a fundamental element of human dignity and freedom." Thus women have an individual and social right to determine their sexual orientation, express their sexuality, and make and carry out decisions concerning their fertility.

- * Sexual and reproductive integrity as a human right not only prohibits coercion or abuse as a result of state laws, population policies and social customs but also entitles women to affirmative efforts on the part of states and international organizations to foster the social, economic and cultural conditions that will ensure their inviolability, self-determination, health, and livelihood consistent with respect for the diversity among women. Such

conditions include access to safe contraceptive alternatives, abortion, and maternity services provided through participatory, consensual processes, as recognized in the Women's Convention.

3. Under Item 10 of the provisional agenda which calls for consideration of the relationship between Development, Democracy, and Human Rights, we urge this Conference to recognize that human rights, true democracy and peace are incompatible with poverty and exploitation and to affirm and propose initiatives and mechanisms to implement the indivisibility of political, civil, social, economic and cultural rights and the right to development. Where the social and economic rights guaranteed by the Universal Declaration and the Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights are denied and the state abdicates responsibility for assuring the livelihoods,-- the food, shelter, work, health, welfare, education and well-being of the people,-- women bear disproportionately the burden of sustaining life. Therefore, we specifically call upon the Conference to consider:

- * Measures to bring about an end to the policies of structural adjustment which lead to violations of economic, social and cultural rights generally and have a particularly severe and discriminatory impact on women. As employed workers in the social service sectors, women are the first to be fired, and as unpaid workers in their households and communities, women exhaust themselves trying to mitigate the terrible effects of the deep cutbacks on basic services, ranging from water supply, to health and education services.*

- * Review of the international financial institutions and arrangements with a view toward establishing a more just economic order and toward achieving sustainable development in all countries with the inclusion of women from all sectors in the development process.*

- * Procedures to implement socio-economic rights, such as an optional protocol allowing for individual complaints to the UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and to ensure the accountability of States to undertake affirmative measures to guarantee these rights.*

4. Regarding the indivisibility and universality of human rights, all international instruments should be applied equally to women and governments should not use cultural and religious issues to evade responsibility for defending the fundamental human rights of women. As suggested in the resolution on the protection of women's human rights adopted by the African Regional Preparatory Conference in Tunis (A/Conf. 157/AFRM/L. 5), in considering the need to ensure the universality of human rights, governments should devise measures to counter all forms of religious or cultural intolerance denying women's human rights and liberties.

5. *Regarding Agenda Item 11 on Contemporary Trends in the challenges to the full realization of all human rights of women and men, discussions of UN peacekeeping activities, emergency response mechanisms, and humanitarian assistance such as aid to victims of the conflicts in Somalia, should pay attention, and develop effective responses to the particular vulnerabilities of women as a group in crisis situations such as armed or ethnic conflict at the international, national or local level. Special consideration must be given to the impact on women of all measures taken under these conditions.*

6. *With respect to refugee women, the Conference should give consideration to their gender-specific needs both in seeking refugee status as well as in the particular situations they face as refugees. We urge the World Conference to consider the following measures:*

- * Call for international and national measures recognizing feared or actual persecution based on gender as a basis for refugee status. Such measures include modification of the definition of refugee under the 1951 Convention on the Status relating to Refugees and the 1967 Protocol.
- * Governments should be urged to implement immediately the 1991 Guidelines on the Protection of Refugee Women issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In conformity with the 1991 Guidelines, gender-based persecution must encompass rape and domestic violence and other forms of privately inflicted gender-specific violence where it occurs with the "consent or acquiescence" of the state or "where a government cannot or will not protect women...[even though] the government need not itself have been the instigator of the abuse." The recently adopted (1993) Canadian "Guidelines on Women Refugee Claimants Fearing Gender-Related Persecution" provide a thoughtful guide on gender-based refugee status.
- * Recognizing that women and children comprise the vast majority of the world's refugees, their health, safety, work and education needs must be recognized and ensured. This includes protection from physical and sexual abuse in general and when imposed as a condition for receiving aid and basic necessities; access to medical and health care, including gynecology, means to prevent or interrupt pregnancies, pre-natal, childbirth and post-natal care; and access to education and employment opportunities and participation in governance and community development programs on an equal basis with men and boys.

7. *In discussions of "vulnerable groups" under Item 11:*

* We urge the World Conference to recognize that women and other groups which have traditionally been placed under this heading are not groups which are vulnerable per se. They have been made vulnerable to diverse forms of human rights violations by the structures which create and maintain the discrimination and oppression of people based on race, ethnicity, class, sex and sexual orientation, disability, geography, culture, and other considerations. Therefore, in order to achieve the full universalization of human rights these structures of "vulnerabilization" and inequality must be addressed in order to guarantee all persons full participation and enjoyment of human rights.

* Situations which require that special consideration be given to the women because of how they are made vulnerable include: refugees, racial and ethnic minorities, migrants and immigrants, indigenous peoples, lesbians, women affected by HIV/AIDS; young and aging women; economically disadvantaged or exploited women; and women with disabilities.

These recommendations were adopted at the Satellite event -International Strategic Planning Institute convened by the Center for Women's Global Leadership, Douglass College, Rutgers University (USA) , which included participants from the following organizations and countries: Women in Law and Development Africa (Uganda and Sudan); Women Living Under Muslim Laws (Algeria and Bangladesh); League for Human Rights Women's Branch (Egypt) Community Law Center of the University of the Western Cape (South Africa); Asian Women's Human Rights Council (Philippines); AGHS Legal Aid Cell (Pakistan); Beijing Society of Women's Studies (China); Women in Media Collective (Sri Lanka); Change (Britain); Humanistic Committee on Human Rights (Netherlands); Family Violence Prevention Fund (USA); International Women's Human Rights Clinic of the City University of New York Law School (USA); UNIFEM (Peru); Instituto Latinoamericano De Servicios Legales Alternativos (Peru); Feminist International Radio Endeavor (Puerto Rico); Comité Latinoamericano de Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer (Argentina); ILANUD (Costa Rica); Isis International (Chile); and Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (Bahamas).



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.157/PC/42/Add.4
20 April 1993

Original: ENGLISH

WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Preparatory Committee
Fourth session
Geneva, 19-30 April 1993
Agenda Item 6

REPORT ON OTHER MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

Contribution from Women in Law and Development in Africa
(WiLDAF)

1. The General Assembly, by its resolution 46/116, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Preparatory Committee on progress made on meetings that had been organized under the auspices of the United Nations programme pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/155.
2. By letter dated 1 April 1993, the Regional Coordinator of Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF) requested that the recommendations from two WiLDAF-sponsored meetings be circulated at the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee. The first, the Southern African Women's Human Rights meeting, was held from 10-12 March 1993 and attended by representatives of 24 organizations in 7 countries of the southern African region, and the second, the East Africa Sub-regional Meeting, was held from 22-24 March 1993 and attended by 51 participants from four countries of the East African region.
3. Both sets of recommendations, inter alia, call upon States to accept the obligations of international human rights law which protect women, to ratify and implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and to ensure that their domestic laws and practice are in conformity with their international obligations.

THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
SOUTHERN AFRICA WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS SATELLITE MEETING

10 - 12 March 1983, Mazvikadei, Banket, Zimbabwe

This meeting of 31 individuals representing 24 organizations in 7 countries of the Southern Africa sub-region:

RECALLING the commitment of the international community of States to the human rights principles of non-discrimination and equality between men and women as is evidenced by the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other human rights instruments,

CONCERNED that despite the obligations, contained in the human rights instruments ratified or acceded to by States, to promote and protect equality between men and women, discrimination against women continues to exist in law and practice

CONCERNED FURTHER that custom and tradition are used by States, State agencies and individuals to perpetuate discrimination against women in areas of legal status and capacity, family life and marital power, access to land, credit and other economic resources and citizenship

RECOGNIZING that systematic violence against women, is a violation of the fundamental right to physical, mental, emotional and sexual integrity of women

NOTING that the continued division of human rights into civil and political right on the one hand and social and economic rights on the other has seriously affected and continues to affect the rights of women and girl-children to health-care and education

NOTING FURTHER that the imposition and implementation of economic structural adjustment programmes on developing countries has very serious and negative implications for women's human rights in the family, at work, and in health and education

MINDFUL that access to information by populations is necessary for the protection and promotion of human rights

RECOMMENDS

1. that States reaffirm and commit themselves to effectively promote and protect the human rights of women within their territories. The international community of States must commit themselves to use all lawful means to promote and protect the human rights of women around the world.

2. that States ratify and implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and other human rights instruments

3. that States ensure that their domestic law and practice are in conformity with their international obligations under regional and international human rights instruments

4. that States recognize systematic violence against women as a violation of the human rights of women. States are under an obligation to take all necessary measures to stop this violence wherever it occurs

5. that States reaffirm the indivisibility of human rights and commit themselves to providing resources for the enjoyment of social and economic rights

6. that multilateral financial institutions and donor countries allow prior popular consultation to ensure that economic structural adjustment programmes do not result in or worsen systematic violations of the human rights of women

7. that States and international organizations recognize and act upon their obligation to disseminate information on human rights standards, state obligations and enforcement mechanisms.

THE UNITED NATIONS WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
EAST AFRICA SUB-REGIONAL MEETING,
MARCH 22ND - 24TH, 1993

51 participants from non-governmental organizations from four countries of the East African region, (Uganda, Mauritius, Tanzania, Kenya) participated at the meeting.

RECALLING the commitment of the international community of states to the Human Rights principles of non-discrimination and equality between men and women as proclaimed by the U.N. Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other human rights instruments,

NOTING that despite ratification by member states of the international legal instruments, legal, economic, social, political, traditional, and cultural barriers continue to hinder women from achieving their full development potential,

CONCERNED that despite the objectives contained in the human rights instruments ratified by member states to promote, protect and maintain equality between men and women, discrimination against women continues to exist in law and practice,

CONCERNED FURTHER that member states, law enforcement agencies and individuals use negative customary laws and harmful traditional practices to deny women their constitutional, political, legal, socio-economic, cultural, health and reproductive rights,

NOTING that systematic violence whether in the private or public sphere against women apart from constituting a violation of their rights to physical, mental, emotional, psychological and sexual integrity, dignity and self-esteem, is above all a denial of their fundamental right to life,

NOTING FURTHER that the separation between first and second generation of rights is unacceptable, due to its negative effects on the rights of women in general, in the rights of girl children in particular, to health care, education and other social rights,

CONCERNED that the combined imposition and implementation of the structural adjustment policies and programmes constitute an impediment on women's human rights and in particular their socio-economic rights,

RECOGNIZING that illiteracy and ignorance of basic fundamental

rights constitute a major obstacle to the realization of women's human rights,
 CONCERNED that the important roles of women as producers, reproducers and sustainers of agricultural economies and their contribution to the general development process of the member states are underestimated and/or ignored,

RECOMMENDS:-

1. That member states accept the obligation of international human rights law articulated in the international instruments and reaffirm and commit themselves to effectively promote and protect the human rights of women within their territories.
2. That member states ratify and implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and other human rights instruments. Reservations from member states should not nullify their obligations to protect and ensure the rights of women.
3. That member states ensure that their domestic laws and practice are in conformity with their international obligations under regional and international human rights instruments.
4. That the international community of states adopt a system of monitoring and redress of violation of women's human rights and commit themselves to use all lawful means to promote and protect the human rights of women around the world.
5. That member states recognize systematic violence against women as a violation of their fundamental human right and commit themselves to take all necessary measures to combat this phenomenon.
6. That states reaffirm the indivisibility of human rights and commit themselves to providing resources for the enjoyment of social and economic rights.
7. That multi-lateral financial institutions, donor countries and other donor agencies proceed by way of prior popular consultation to ensure that economic structural adjustment policies and programmes do not result in, or worsen systematic violations of the human rights of women.
8. That member states and international organizations reaffirm and adhere to their obligation to disseminate information on human rights standards, member states

obligations and enforcement mechanisms.

9. That member states should promote and encourage international co operation so as to ensure the realization of women's rights as guaranteed by the international instruments.

WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

VIENNA, 14 - 25 June 1993

STATEMENT BY WILDAF, ITS MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS AND OTHER AFRICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) makes this intervention on behalf of the women's rights and development organizations and individuals in Africa, whose names appear below.

We appreciate the decision of the United Nations and its member States to hold the World Conference on Human Rights. Concerned that women's fundamental human rights have not been perceived as human rights by States, treaty-based bodies and the United Nations system, we call upon the World Conference on Human Rights to consider the following:

PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, there has been some progress in the field of human rights. Various human rights conventions have been adopted at international and regional levels, thus providing the legal framework for the promotion and protection of fundamental human rights. Enforcement mechanisms and bodies like the Human Rights Commission and Committee, regional human rights commissions and courts and various monitoring efforts have been put in place. Their work and potential is appreciated.

These overall and general achievements should not detract the World Conference from reviewing progress in the human rights of specific groups or communities. The Conference should specifically review the progress, if any, made in the effective promotion and protection of women's human rights. In particular, the World Conference should consider the following:

- In spite of the ratification of international and regional human rights instruments, States still maintain laws and practices which discriminate against women. Selective traditions and customs

are used by States to perpetuate discrimination against women and to condone it in the private sphere, contrary to obligations freely assumed by States and to the expectations of the international community. This is particularly true in the field of access to land and other economic resources, legal status and capacity and rights within the family.

- The failure of States, treaty-base bodies and human rights NGOs to effectively address the issue of violence against women. Women all over the world are subjected to certain forms of violence, including battery in the home and rape, because they are women. This systemic violence threatens and denies women their fundamental rights to life, to security of person and amounts to cruel and inhuman treatment. It is the highest form of sex discrimination and denies women the dignity and integrity inherent in the human person. It also impairs their capacity to exercise and enjoy other civil and political, social and economic rights.⁸

In respect of these issues we recommend that the World Conference:

1. reaffirms the right of women not to be discriminated against, on the basis of their sex, as an inalienable human right which States should promote and protect. The Conference should call on those States which have not done so, to ratify human rights instruments protecting women's rights. The Conference should discuss and determine the validity of reservations, entered on ratification, which defeat the primary objectives of the instruments. The Conference should further call on States to ensure that their constitutions, other domestic laws and practices are designed, to eliminate discrimination against women both in the public and private spheres. Custom, tradition, and religion, must be seen as subject to the inalienable rights of the human person.

We further call upon the World Conference to call upon the Human Rights Commission to take urgent steps to appoint a special rapporteur on gender discrimination. The World Conference should also call on other treaty-bodies, in the course of their duties, to address discrimination against women both in public life and within the family, and to recommend appropriate sanctions, against states continuing violations against women's rights.

2. recognizes systemic violence against women as a violation of women's fundamental rights. The Conference should reaffirm State responsibility to eliminate violence against women in the public and private sphere. The Conference should call on States to take urgent and effective legal, administrative, educational and social measures to achieve this objective. The Human Rights Commission, other international and regional human rights regimes and human rights NGOs must address perennial human rights issue.

We recognize and support the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to consider the appointment of a special rapporteur on

gender violence. This would be a first and necessary step in integrating women's human rights concerns in the work of the Human Rights Commission.

BARRIERS TO PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The World Conference should consider the following barriers to progress in the promotion and protection of women's human rights.

- The failure of the human rights community (States, treaty-based bodies, international and national human rights NGOs) to consider it their responsibility to disseminate human rights information to the people must be seen as one of the main obstacles to the promotion and protection of human rights. The potential for people to demand their rights, to monitor their own human right situation and to report violations must not be underestimated. This is particularly important for the realization of gender equality. Women all over the world, especially in Africa and other Third World countries, need information on fundamental rights, obligations assumed by their States, available enforcement mechanisms and how to access them. States, treaty-based bodies and non-government human rights organizations must commit themselves and their resources to the effective dissemination of human rights information and to support national and grassroots groups working towards this end.

- The continued division of human rights into civil and political rights on the one hand, and social and economic rights on the other, is a serious obstacle to the protection of women's human rights. The international human rights community has committed significant resources to the monitoring and reporting of violations of and/or progress in the field of civil and political rights. Donor countries and multilateral agencies have used development aid to promote greater respect for civil and political rights. While this is to be appreciated and encouraged, women in Africa and other Third World countries, are concerned that the human rights community pays relatively little attention to ensuring that women and girl-children have access to food, medical care, family planning methods of their choice, education and economic resources.

We call upon the World Conference to:

1. reaffirm the obligation of States, treaty-based human rights bodies and multilateral agencies to effectively disseminate human rights information. This obligation includes dissemination of information on;

- i). the time, (year, and month), when States are required to submit periodic reports

ii). the content of such reports.

The Conference must call upon the international human rights community to support national and grassroots NGOs working to create human rights awareness and to help communities protect themselves against violations.

2. reaffirm the indivisibility and mutual dependence of human rights. The Conference must call upon States and multilateral agencies to commit themselves and their resources to securing for the women of the World a right of access to food, health care, including family planning services, education and economic resources. Unless greater attention is given to these basic rights, progress towards a universal respect for women's human rights will continue to be elusive.

EMERGING ISSUES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

In considering emerging issues in the field of human rights and the relationship between development and human rights, the World Conference should consider the following:

1. The imposition and implementation of economic structural adjustment programmes (ESAP) in many countries of Africa is creating new challenges for the human rights community. Multilateral financial agencies and donor countries are demanding strict adherence by countries as a precondition to development aid. The World Conference must consider the negative impact of those programmes on the majority of the population and the relationship between that impact and human rights. As governments are forced to cut government spending on public utilities and amenities, communities which are already poor are deprived of medical care, education opportunities and the opportunity to enter the job market. These impacts are particularly severe in the case of women. In many African communities, if families are forced to choose between a son and a daughter in terms of education, good nutrition and medical care, the son gets the opportunity. In many of these communities, where women and girls are already disadvantaged, Structural Adjustment Programmes have further worsened women and girls' situation. Economic Structural Adjustment Programmes are forcing families in Africa to make those kinds of choices. The implications for women in Africa, and especially for their capacity to demand and enjoy fundamental human rights is severely being hampered.

We call upon the World Conference to take a close and open look at

the human rights aspects of ESAP. In particular, the Conference should bear in mind that the human person should always be the subject and object of the development process. Mere accumulation of wealth by a few individuals is not development. We believe that there can be development with a human face. The Conference should call for more consultations with grassroots communities before ESAPs are imposed.

2. Many African countries are consumed by internal armed conflicts. We call upon the World Conference to effectively address human rights violations by government and all parties involved in the armed conflict situations. Women suffer horrendous violations as women, which need to be researched into, reported and effectively addressed by the human rights community. Mass abductions of women and young girls for sexual molestation by the fighting groups, forced pregnancies, forced circumcision and other gender-specific abuses are widespread.

We call upon the World Conference to recommend to the Human Rights Commission to undertake an urgent study on the magnitude of this problem and to recommend to the United Nations General Assembly and the World Conference on Women in 1995 on appropriate measures to protect women's rights in conflict situations.

We appreciate and support the decision of the United Nations to establish a war crimes tribunal to prosecute crimes, including rape in the former Yugoslavia. We, however, wish to note that atrocities of a similar nature are taking place in situations of internal armed conflicts in Africa. The international human rights community needs to develop effective mechanisms which will protect women's rights in all conflict situations.

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

ORGANIZATIONS

Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF)
 International Federation of Women Lawyers-Lesotho
 International Federation of Women Lawyers-Kenya
 International Federation of Women Lawyers-Uganda
 International Federation of Women Lawyers-Tanzania
 International Federation of Women Lawyers-Ghana
 International Federation of Women Lawyers-Nigeria
 Emang Basadi (Botswana)
 Centre for Human rights (Botswana)
 Action for Development (Uganda)
 Uganda Law Society (Uganda)
 Uganda Women's Resource Centre (Uganda)
 Legal Education and Advice Project (Kenya)
 Women and Law in East Africa (Kenya)
 Tanzania Media Women's Association (Tanzania)
 Women and Law in East Africa (Tanzania)
 Musasa Project (Zimbabwe)
 Women's Action Group (Zimbabwe)
 Women and Law in Southern Africa (Zimbabwe)
 Zimbabwe Council of Churches (Zimbabwe)
 Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (Zimbabwe)
 Young Women Christian Association (Zimbabwe)
 Young Women Christian Association (Zambia)
 Zambia Association for Research and Development (Zambia)
 Zambia Media Women's Association (Zambia)
 Women's Lobby Group (Zambia)
 Women and Law in Southern Africa (Swaziland)
 Legal Assistance Centre (Namibia)
 MULEIDE (Mozambique)
 Legal Research and Resource Development Centre (Nigeria)
 Women in Nigeria (WIN) (Nigeria)
 STOPAIDS Organization (Nigeria)
 Women's Research Group, University of Ghana (Ghana)
 Allied Women's Group (Ghana)
 Soroptimist International Club of Accra (Ghana)
 Center for African Studies, Gender Department (Mozambique)
 International Reproductive Rights Research Action Group (Nigeria)
 SUWATA Legal Aid Scheme (Tanzania)
 Yewi Yewi (Senegal)
 Federation des Associations Femininines de Senegal (Senegal)
 Association des Femmes Tunisiennes pour la recherche et le developpement (Tunisia)
 Association Tunnisienne des Femmes Democratres
 Association de la Defense et de la Promotion des Droits de la Femme (Algeria)
 Association de la Solidarite des Femmes du Maghreb et de l'Europe (Algeria)

Association pour l'Egalite devant la loi entre le femmes et les hommes (Algeria)
 Union de l'Action Feminine (Morocco)
 Association Democratique des Femmes du Maroc (Morocco)
 Section Feminine de l'USFP (Morocco)
 Section Feminine del'UNFP (Morocco)
 Section Feminine du Parti de l'avant garde (Morocco)
 Organization de la Femme Istiglaliene (Morocco)
 Association Marocaine des Droits de la Femme (Morocco)
 Association des Femmes Progressistes (Morocco)
 Association de Solidarite Feminine (Morocco)
 Section Feminine du mouvement populaire (Morocco)
 Commission des Femmes del'Organization Marocaine des Droits de l'Homme (Morocco)
 Commission des Femmes de l'Association Marocaine des Droits de l'homme (Morocco)
 Commission des Femmes Ouvrieres de la C.D.T. (Morocco)
 Commission des Femmes Ouvrieres de l'U.M.T.
 Association des Femmes Chefs d'Enterprises
 Association de la Creativite Feminine (Morocco)
 Comite des Femmes Journalistes Professionnelles (Morocco)
 Association des Femmes et des Jeunes dans l'Environnement Maghrebin (Morocco)
 Association des Femmes Sportives (Morocco)
 Ligne Nationale Fonctionnaires du secteur publique

INDIVIDUALS

Alice Mogwe	(Botswana)
Motsei Madisa	(Botswana)
Akua Kuenyehia	(Ghana)
Dorcas Coker-Appiah	(Ghana)
Joan Attu	(Ghana)
Judith Asamoah	(Ghana)
Arthur Lucy	(Ghana)
Addo-Kufour Marian Adwoa	(Ghana)
Owusu Ursula	(Ghana)
Ernestina Naana Hagan	(Ghana)
Alexina Arthur	(Ghana)
Kate Abbam	(Ghana)
Lucy Osei	(Ghana)
Chris Dadzie	(Ghana)
Alikem Adadevoh	(Ghana)
Elizabeth Owivedu Gyampoh	(Ghana)
Henrietta Asare-Korang	(Ghana)
Elizabeth Ardayfio-Schandorf	(Ghana)
Christina Addo	(Ghana)
Grace Githu	(Kenya)
Jean Kamau	(Kenya)
Betty Wamalwa	(Kenya)
Christine Agimba	(Kenya)
Patricia Mbote	(Kenya)

Nancy Baraza	(Kenya)
Dione Morris	(Kenya)
Anne Kariuki	(Kenya)
Mamosebi Pholo	(Lesotho)
Ann Pinto	(Mozambique)
Helena Pedro	(Mozambique)
Judite Santos	(Mozambique)
Teodiso Uate	(Mozambique)
Gail Super	(Namibia)
Nashilongo Shivute	(Namibia)
Tokunbo Ige	(Nigeria)
Dupe Adesioye	(Nigeria)
Alonge Titi	(Nigeria)
Amobi A. Iorna	(Nigeria)
Osemwegie Adesuwa	(Nigeria)
Grace Osakwe	(Nigeria)
Otunla Bette	(Nigeria)
Olateru-Olagbegi Bisi	(Nigeria)
Asimolowo Bimpe	(Nigeria)
Aknigbe Adesuwa	(Nigeria)
Adria Graham	(Nigeria)
Fwangchi H. M.	(Nigeria)
Pearl Nwashili	(Nigeria)
Nkechi Nwankwo	(Nigeria)
Ebuk E Fidela	(Nigeria)
Idowu O Abiodun	(Nigeria)
Mary Kanu	(Nigeria)
Bisi Ogunleye	(Nigeria)
Peju Olukoya	(Nigeria)
Judith Okpeki	(Nigeria)
Olapeju Odelola	(Nigeria)
Ebunoluwa Okusanya	(Nigeria)
Bimbo Okunola	(Nigeria)
Seny Diagne	(Senegal)
Awa Sene Sarr	(Senegal)
Colibaly Fall	(Senegal)
Mahfud Durra	(Tunisia)
Nadia Hakimi	(Tunisia)
Zineb Hamed	(Tunisia)
Akila Ward	(Algeria)
Saliha Ghazali	(Algeria)
Hakima Ben Abdelmoumen	(Algeria)
Fatima Ibrahim	(Sudan)
Inayat Mohmoud Farid	(Egypt)
Ndoure Mbam Diara	(Mali)
Bernadette Palle	(Burkina Faso)
Pratt Delina Hulda	(Sierra Leone)
Dyfan Lanla Isha	(Sierra Leone)
Dlamini Thembayena	(Swaziland)
Maureen Magwaza	(Swaziland)
Nakazael Tenga	(Tanzania)
Sherbanu Kassim	(Tanzania)

Winnie Korosso	(Tanzania)
Eddah Sanga	(Tanzania)
Florence Butegwa	(Uganda/Zimbabwe)
Margaret Oguli-Gumo	(Uganda)
Esther Mayambala	(Uganda)
Alugresia Akwi-Ogojo	(Uganda)
Enid Byaburakirya	(Uganda)
Dora Kanabahita	(Uganda)
Stella Mukasa	(Uganda)
Lillian Mushota	(Zambia)
Mary Kazunga	(Zambia)
Sydia Nduna	(Zambia)
Rosemary Nyaywa	(Zambia)
Mercy Siame	(Zambia)
Evejoice Win	(Zimbabwe)
Petronella Maramba	(Zimbabwe)
Gladys Gwashure	(Zimbabwe)
Margaret Makuwaza	(Zimbabwe)
Gladys Siwela	(Zimbabwe)
Patricia Majoko	(Zimbabwe)
Grace Chiura	(Zimbabwe)
Christine Erickson	(Zimbabwe)